

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 PM-03 SPC-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00

L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /061 W

----- 081667

R 130909Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1826

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2980

LIMDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RP, MY, ID, SA

SUBJ: PRESIDENT MARCOS' RELATIONS WITH ISLAMIC STATES

1. MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR INFORMED ME MORNING MARCH 13 THAT HIS SCHEDULED MEETING WITH SAUDI ARABIAN MINISTER SAQQAF FOR THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 12 WAS CANCELLED ON SHORT NOTICE BY SAQQAF. REASON GIVEN WAS "IMPORTANT MEETING" WHICH SAUDIS ALLEGEDLY HAD WITH MARCOS.

2. SAQQAF LEFT SHORTLY AFTER NOON MARCH 13 FOR TAIPEI, WHERE HE IS EXPECTED REMAIN 2 OR 3 DAYS, ACCORDING GRC AMBASSADOR. IN FAREWELL CEREMONIES AT AIRPORT, SAQQAF WAS COURTIED BY LOCAL PHILIPPINE MUSLIM POLITICIANS BUT GAVE THEM VERY LITTLE TIME.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SAQQAF'S CANCELLATION OF HIS APPOINTMENT WITH MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR WAS DELIBERATE DECISION TO AVOID EMBARRASSING HIS FILIPINO HOSTS, RATHER THAN RESULT OF GREAT PRESSURE OF BUSINESS. HE SEEMS PREPARED
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TO RESIST PRESSURE FROM MALAYSIANS, LIBYANS, AND OTHERS, TO

TAKE A MILITANT STAND AGAINST MARCOS AND IN FAVOR OF
FILIPINO MUSLIMS. IN FACT, ROMULO TELLS ME THAT LOCAL
MUSLIM POLITICIANS WERE A LITTLE TOO STRONG FOR SAQQAF'S
WEAK STOMACH AND MAY HAVE HARMED THEIR OWN CAUSE IN THEIR
TALKS WITH HIM.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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